

**MARICOPA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**
Meeting of January 9, 2007

LOCATION:	234 N. Central Avenue, Suite 6400, Parks Conference Room, Phoenix, AZ 85004
COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:	Laurel Arndt, Jill Kusy, Salomon Leija, Anne Lynch, Jack Stapley and Randy Virden
COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:	District 4 (currently vacant)
STAFF PRESENT:	William C. Scalzo, Director; Ken Mouw, Chief Engineer; Rhonda Woodward, Administrative Supervisor; Teresa Retterbush, Eastside Superintendent; Jennifer Waller, Westside Superintendent; Rand Hubbell, Park Supervisor – McDowell; Paul Marusich, Interim Park Supervisor – Estrella; Chris Coover, Maricopa Trail Manager; Fareed Abou-Haidar, GIS Technician; Terry Gerber, Interpretive Ranger; Debbie Lemon, Administrative Coordinator IV and Recorder; Amelia Sowers, HR/Payroll; Captain Bill VanAusdal, Sheriff Trails Division and Kevin Costello, County Counsel.

The official correspondence and staff recommendations contained in this Commission folder are hereby entered as supportive material to the official minutes of the January 9, 2007 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

ITEM # 1 – CALL TO ORDER – Jill Kusy, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission

- Chair Jill Kusy called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

ITEM # 2 – ROLL CALL – Roll Call taken - a quorum was present.

ITEM # 3 – INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSIONER, SALOMON LEIJA FOR DISTRICT 5 – Jill Kusy, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission – *INFORMATION ITEM*

- Chair Kusy introduced Salomon Leija. Speaking for the entire Commission she welcomed him and is pleased that he is representing District 5. She gave a brief summary of his work and interests.

ITEM # 4 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 14, 2006 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETINGS – Jill Kusy, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission - *ACTION ITEM*

- Motion to approve the minutes as presented by Anne Lynch with a second by Randy Virden. All were in favor.

ITEM # 5 – SET COMMISSION MEETING DATES – Jill Kusy, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission – *ACTION ITEM*

- The proposed dates were reviewed and the March meeting date was cancelled. Anne Lynch motioned that the list of dates be amended to cancel the March 13 meeting date. Laurel Arndt seconded the motion and all were in favor.

ITEM #6 - DIRECTOR'S SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS – William Scalzo, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – *INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM*

- Shade structures are currently being installed at numerous parks. Many have already been completed and look wonderful. These structures will not only protect the children but also help to extend out the season of use.
- Chris Coover and Ken Mouw are also working on the Visitor Centers. The new buildings are designed to better blend in with the surroundings. They are all underway with the exception of the Cave Creek Visitor Center which will be started shortly. Entry stations are also being worked on currently and White Tank's should be finished soon.
- San Tan Mountain Regional Park trails construction will begin within a month, which was confirmed by Chris Coover.
- Great things are happening with the Regional Trail. Recent articles in the newspaper have been reporting on the development of the linkage of Cave Creek and Spur Cross, as well as White Tank and Lake Pleasant. The last few months have been very progressive and everyone is going a great job.
- Chair Kusy asked about 'green' products being used for our new buildings. Mr. Scalzo noted that we are currently following numerous new innovations in design and one product is called Ice Block. We will be using solar at the new Buckeye Hills Shooting facility. Energy consumption is important and is being reviewed for future, as we would like to do more solar thermal projects. Mr. Scalzo mentioned the Green Conference that will be held in November at Chase Field, this event will coincide with the street race that will also take place during that time. Included in the race will be a 'green' vehicle promoting alternative fuel.

ITEM #7 – PLANNING FOR THE NORTH REACH OF LAKE PLEASANT – Jennifer Waller, Westside Superintendent (on behalf of R.J. Cardin), Maricopa County Parks and Recreation – *PRESENTATION ITEM*

- Superintendent Waller began by noting that this item was added to make the Commissioners aware of what was going on in the Agua Fria area at Lake Pleasant. She displayed a couple of maps. There are numerous activities occurring that are causing significant concern, such as; grazing issues, off-road and ATV's, shooting, littering and dumping, as well as damage to archeological areas. Public safety as a huge concern.
- The area is remote with limited access with a self pay station. Restricted access is a possible solution that was recently brought up at meeting that involved BOR, BLM, County Sheriff's and Parks staff.
- Political issues may need to be addressed. Long term vision is a recreation and operation plan for that area. Short term issues are access, communication and identifying boundaries. Commissioner Virden questioned the cultural damage that is being done to the area. With various archeological sites in or near that area that is also a big concern as well as numerous other factors.
- Commissioner Leija asked to confirm the entrance to that area, Table Mesa Road and about signs in the area. Jennifer Waller confirmed the access area, as well as noting that Black Canyon Trail goes through that area.
- Mr. Scalzo noted that the area is not currently fenced, it is imperative that it gets fenced and we use our resources to do so.
- Commissioner Leija also asked where the momentum was going, and if the area was going to be closed. Mrs. Waller stated she was not sure at this time, but feels that educating people is going to

be a number one factor. Also questioned was any Sheriff's office support, and it was confirmed that the area is patrolled by the Sheriff's Dept. Trails Division.

- Mr. Scalzo further noted and identified Commissioner Leija's thoughts that the best option is for the area to be fenced, with an actual entry station and a formal road for control purposes. The biggest problem is that the area is remote and quite some distance from the other facility at the Lake where most of the main activity is. Mr. Scalzo asked Captain VanAusdal to speak.
- There has also been discussion of a facility in that area to house Parks, Sheriff, BLM as well as Game and Fish officers. Just where that discussion is going is unknown at this time. Everyone identifies and recognizes the issues that are there
- Captain VanAusdal addressed the Commission by noting that communication in the area is a big part of it, and having ample staff to patrol the area. Captain VanAusdal has a meeting today with State Parks and State Land regarding ATV's and will be asking their support as they also patrol State Trust Land as well. The Sheriff's office is committed to be a strong partner with us on this, and that the fence is the critical part of this issue.
- Commissioner Virden questioned the possible cost of fixing the communication problem. Captain VanAusdal said he would know more after his meeting later this week. He feels the area will probably always have communication issues because it's surrounded by mountains.
- Next meeting regarding the Aqua Fria area is scheduled for later this month, State Land will be at this next meeting as well. Commissioner Leija asked to be notified with the information for that meeting so he could also attend.

ITEM # 8– CALL TO THE COMMISSION

- None.

ITEM #9 – CALL TO THE PUBLIC

- None.

ITEM # 10 – ADJOURNMENT

- There being no further business, Jill Kusy, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission, adjourned the meeting at 9:53 a.m.

William C. Scalzo, Director/Secretary

Jill Kusy, Chair